



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NOTICE OF REVISED CONTROL DATE TO ESTABLISH A MORATORIUM ON ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL CHARTER VESSEL/HEADBOAT PERMITS

NOAA Fisheries announces that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) has taken final action on an amendment to the fishery management plans for Gulf reef fish and coastal migratory pelagic fish that would establish a moratorium on the issuance of additional charter vessel and headboat (recreational-for-hire) permits for these fisheries in the exclusive economic zone of the Gulf of Mexico. The Council has selected March 29, 2001, as the control date for determining eligibility for charter vessel/headboat permits under the moratorium and supersedes the prior control date of November 18, 1998.

This notice is to inform fishermen that anyone entering these recreational-for-hire fisheries after the March 29, 2001, control date would not be eligible for a charter vessel or headboat permit under the permit

moratorium, if the amendment is approved by NMFS. The control date is intended to discourage new entry into these recreational-for-hire fisheries prior to implementation of the proposed permit moratorium and thereafter.

Written comments on this control date must be received by 5 p.m. on July 16, 2001, and must be mailed to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619-2266; FAX (813) 225-7015.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/>. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



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